

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 EB-07 /080 W
----- 007202

R 120912Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7830

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BLANTYRE 0318

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ME, TZ

SUBJECT: BANDA WARNS TANZANIA AGAINST REPORTED PLANS TO PUT
SHIPS ON LAKE MALAWI.

1. AT THE CLOSE OF HIS SPEECH ON MARCH 11 OPENING THE 2ND
SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, AS HIS FINAL POINT, PRESIDENT BANDA
REFERRED TO "RUMORS" AND "NEWSPAPER STORIES" (TANZANIA DAILY
NEWS OF 26 NOV., 1974 UNDOUBTEDLY ONE SOURCE) CONCERNING PLANS
"OF A CERTAIN COUNTRY" TO OPEN A SHIPPING SERVICE ON LAKE
MALAWI. HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE PARLIAMENT THAT THE
GOM HAS NO PART IN THIS PLAN AND FURTHERMORE CONSIDERS LAKE
MALAWI TO BE ENTIRELY GOM TERRITORY. HE THEN GAVE LONG HIS-
TORICAL BACKGROUND WHICH IN HIS FIRM VIEW SUPPORTS MALAWI'S
POSITION. ADDED THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER OF "THAT COUNTRY"
IN LUSAKA HAD BEEN INFORMED OF MALAWI'S POSITION. (HE NEVER
MENTIONED TANZANIA BY NAME BUT NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND TO
WHOM HE REFERRED). SAID GOM INVESTIGATING STORY AND HE
AWAITING RESULTS BEFORE GOING FURTHER. STRESSED HE WOULD
NEVER YIELD MALAWI'S TERRITORY AND SAID MALAWIANS SHOULD NOT
BECOME EMOTIONAL ABOUT MATTER AND PUT TRUST IN HIM.

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WM COMMENT: THE ISSUE OF LAKE OWNERSHIP HAS COME UP AT VARIOUS

TIMES OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS WITH BANDA CONSISTENTLY FIRM IN
ASSERTING THE CLAIM OF SOLE MALAWI OWNERSHIP. TACITLY,
HOWEVER, HE SEEMS TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE MOZAMBIQUE CLAIM TO
HALF THE LAKE OPPOSITE ITS BORDERING SHORE - AT LEAST MAPS
PRINTED HERE SHOW THE BOUNDARY AS A MEDIAN LINE IN THE LAKE.
STEVENSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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